



**Minutes
Tempe Veteran's Commission
March 1, 2016**

Minutes for the Tempe Veteran's Commission Meeting held on March 1, 2016 at 6:00 PM at the Tempe Public Library Board Room, 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona 85282.

Commission Members Present

Keith Finkle, Chair
Michelle Bravo, Vice-Chair
Scott Essex, Secretary
Troy Friedman
Dale Groen
Patricia Little-Upah
Michelle Loposky

Commission Members Absent

Mario Aguirre
Bryan Durham
David Lucier
Laura Skotnicki

Staff Present

Robin Arredondo-Savage, Councilwoman
Naomi Farrell, Human Services Director
Valerie Kime Trujillo, Human Services Deputy Director
Marie Chapple Camacho, Public Information Officer

Item 1 – Meeting Called to Order at 6:00 PM

Item 2 – Public Appearances – None Present

Item 3 – Review of Previous Minutes

Motion by Commission Member Dale Groen to approve minutes; Motion passed unanimously

Item 4 – Stand for Veterans Update – Troy Friedman and Michelle Bravo

Commission Member Michelle Bravo informed the Commission of Stand for Veterans event postponement. Commission Member Troy Friedman advised the Commission that Rio Management was unable to meet short deadline with the level of support they wanted to and has been postponed until Fall 2016. Commission Member Michelle Bravo feels it will be beneficial and will make for a better event.

Item 5 – Bridge Housing – Patricia Little-Upah

Commission Member Patricia Little-Upah had a conversation with the Care 7 staff and was asked if the Commission could “vet” some extended stay hotels in Tempe and establish a relationship. Once established, hotel would be provided with credit card information and a billing routine could be set-up. Care 7 staff is also seeking help with finding discounted transportation options. Discounts are only available to Veterans who are disabled. Commission Member Patricia Little-Upah will draft a document and submit to Commission Member Scott Essex to share with Tempe Chamber of Commerce.

Item 6 – Veterans Childcare Issues – Patricia Little-Upah

Commission has been asked by Care 7 to find local daycare centers that would be willing to provide discounts for Veterans who are looking for work or for discounted weekly rates while Veterans are seeking employment. Commission Member Patricia Little-Upah will draft a document and submit to Commission Member Scott Essex to share with Tempe Chamber of Commerce.

Item 7 – 2016 City Council PowerPoint

Chair Keith Finkle will add a Care 7 and East Valley Veterans Education Center slide and include pictures from Veterans events. Commission Member Michelle Loposky suggested changing wording on wellness page from “social assimilation” to “social transition”. Commission Member Michelle Bravo suggested changing “initial targets” slide to “accomplishments”. Councilwoman Robin Arredondo-Savage advised Commission that Deputy City Managers Ken Jones and Steven Methvin have met with the Department Directors about receiving annual updates from Commissions. Timeline has not been set; possibly at the end of the summer. Commission Members to submit a mission statement and will review at next meeting

Item 8 – Event planning for Veterans Supportive Businesses

A list of Veterans Supportive Businesses was submitted to Chair Keith Finkle by Commission Member Mario Aguirre. Businesses include:

- City of Tempe
- Life Lock
- Allied Barton Security Service
- Modern Industries
- TEAM Security
- PRO EM Staffing

The Commission discussed properly defining what a Veterans supportive business is. The more businesses on the list, the more other businesses would be more inclined to become Veterans Supportive.

Item 9 – Operation Welcome Home – Mario Aguirre

Commission Member absent, item tabled for next meeting

Item 10 – Military Veterans Women's Expo – Michelle Lopusky

- Tempe - Arizona State University event on April 9, 2016 from 8:00 – 2:00
- Flagstaff - Northern Arizona University event on April 16, 2016
- Tucson - University of Arizona event on March 19, 2016

Item 11 – Commission Member Announcements

- Commission Member Michelle Lopusky was nominated for the ASU Pitchfork Award for Outstanding Advisor.
- Commission Member Michelle Bravo
- Career expo is March 16, 2016

Item 12 – Next Meeting – Suggestions

- Review Updated PowerPoint
- Review Mission Statement possibilities
- Follow-up with the coalition on Tempe based businesses
- Operation Welcome Home

Item 13 – Adjournment

Next meeting to be held on April 5, 2016, Tempe Library Board Room, at 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona 85282.

Minutes prepared by: Valerie Kime Trujillo/Melissa Placencia

Reviewed by: Naomi Farrell

Keith Finkle,
Chair, Tempe Veterans Commission